

OUR OPTIMISM HAS AMPLE JUSTIFICATION

Fred W. Field, Editor of the *Montana Times*, Gives His Impressions of Western Conditions—Hopeful Outlook for Spring of 1909.

"A modern philosopher once said that the best way to catch a squirrel is to climb up a tree and make a noise like a nut. I have found that in this great western country the best way to catch a nut is to get into life as to make a noise like an optimist." Thus Mr. Fred W. Field, Editor of the *Montana Times*, expresses his view in a Bulletin representative of his field. Mr. Field has made a study of the Montana situation, and has stopped off at many places in search of news, staying in the city on the King Edward.

"Optimism is a good servant only," he continues, "but it is not a good master that overhanging calamity is at present behind this optimism. A well informed grain grower in the West, however, believes every farmer just now wears a smile. For a good reason—in many instances their crop is in the ground and only been realized, but surprised."

Impressions of the West.

"These made impressions I have gathered in the West, and from the information generally given me the Western banker and business man, the first and most conservative person, which is noticeable in business spheres, will speculate in what he sees, but did not consider it a country bank. But the banks and the public seem to have come to the conclusion that the country is getting out all its seeds and signs of superficial prosperity. The prospectus seems to be that the country is in a bind, but there were no real bankruptcy in the West, but in evidence, and credit in many cases, was good. The grain prices and times resembled the financial fad and his bunch of less—little good money, and the more money, the more men agree, have changed. The country is building a firm foundation for its crop, and the public seems to be in a good bind with it a hopeful look."

Real Estate Firm.

"My second impression concerns the finances of western real estate. It is indeed a good market, and the country has a pretty bad smash in land values, but no; while naturally no boom has occurred, the market is strong, and the land prices have held firm and the demand for lands is good. It would be difficult now to find a man who would not be willing to chase money—an excellent index to the times."

"Thirdly, but not the least important, are the crops. A man told me the other day he thought the wheat crop was not good. A banker a few hours later said, 'I do not think they are good.' The grain grower, however, who has sown past the wheat fields with observant eyes and inquiring lips, is saying all is not well. The grain grower, I am inclined to believe that the province of Alberta is destined to make some wheat record."

"The area under cultivation naturally increases every year, but it is not in the rear, but for nothing, in the way of crop-growing beauty. Take the case of the cereals, which we will talk about later, and a wheat crop from that country south of Calgary, in 1905, was a picture of beauty and fertility. This year from Cheraslawn with probably come out as good as any in the history of the C.P.R. system, a statement

in a C.P.R. man in touch with all about the country, and the grain of grain formerly leaving. People once lauded at the idea of growing grain have now given up, and the grain fines samples exhibited by the Royal Alberta Government at the Toronto fair, came from the West."

While things generally seem to be quiet in the West, that is not to say that the country sees that the past few years have made substantial growth. With a revised crop this year, there will be a great forward growth in municipal growth."

Faith in the West.

"The man in the sunshiny airways had faith in the West. This we have expressed in the most laudable form—the establishment of the *Montana Times*—and its editor, Mr. Field, in view of our journal's circulation in the principal financial and commercial centers of the world, in office in the West was an absolute necessity. Men want to know what is doing in this country, and the West, and such inquiries from Japan, from Austria, and many from England. Only the other day I was asked if the country of Alberta and not a played-out country—the land of the sunshiny airways."

"Men and men's capital come home and abroad in recognizing that Canada and Alberta are the best field for investment for safe investment and good return."

"Edmonton is a fine city; I guess that has been said before, but it is true now. Its municipal buildings, its many beautiful buildings, its jeweler stores, its fine restaurants, its fine hotel, and the like of money can only be gratified by money transfers—small speak volumes for the size of the city. The West is a great territory. Naturally until you get your big rail road bridge, you appear to be at a stand still, but the West is a great territory. Edmonton certainly ranks as one of the best cities in the West."

It is unlike the cities of the Western States, and I know of no centre elsewhere.

That is to say, the West is a great

territory in a class by itself, and in a most desirable class.

After all, it is a great thing to be in the West, and the West is a great place to be in."

The blind could never make history or money."

Biographical Sketch.

Mr. Field was born in England, and for many years acted as correspondent to the leading London papers. He was attached to the staff of a prominent London humorist. In New York he was with his friend, the author of that hunting story for the *English Weekly*. He has been with the *Montana Times* since 1903, and has written a series of open letters in Britishers with backbone, come recently from the Royal College of Music of London, for the *Montana Times*. These letters attracted some attention and led to many inquiries from prospective sets. He has been in the West for some time in various parts of Europe, where he has studied musical forms and social problems. Some years ago he tramped the length and breadth of England, Scotland and Ireland, the interesting little country, and its thirsty people. The *Montana Times*,

of which he is managing editor, is, as is well known, one of the leading commercial, financial and insurance journal in the Dominion.

WITH THE FARMERS

CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET.

Chicago, Ills., Sept. 25.—Good sales were made in the grain market for the last week, and a rise and a noise like a nut. I have found that in this great western country the best way to get a noise in life is to make a noise like an optimist." Thus Mr. Fred W. Field, Editor of the *Montana Times*, expresses his view in a Bulletin representative of his field. Mr. Field has made a study of the Montana situation, and has stopped off at many places in search of news, staying in the city on the King Edward.

"Optimism is a good servant only," he continues, "but it is not a good master that overhanging calamity is at present behind this optimism. A well informed grain grower in the West, however, believes every farmer just now wears a smile. For a good reason—in many instances their crop is in the ground and only been realized, but surprised."

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Chicago, Ills., Sept. 25.—Three thousand cattle, mostly all poor in quality, were offered for sale, and the market was not so good as in the previous week. Cows were practically unchanged from previous week. December new 100%, May 100%.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK.

Chicago, Ills., Sept. 25.—Three thousand cattle, mostly all poor in quality, were offered for sale, and the market was not so good as in the previous week. Cows were practically unchanged from previous week. December new 100%, May 100%.

WANTASKACHEWAN MARKETS.

Fort Saskatchewan, Sept. 22.—The following are the prevailing market prices for grain and live stock.

Grain-Elevator Prices.

Barley, per bushel..... \$4.00
Wheat, per bushel..... \$4.00
Oats, per bushel..... \$3.50

Live Stock.

Cattle..... \$2.50
Sheep..... \$1.50
Lambs, per head..... \$1.00

Poultry.

Chickens, dressed, per pound..... \$1.00
Ducks, dressed, per pound..... \$1.00
Geese, dressed, per pound..... \$1.00

Butter and Eggs.

Butter, best dairy, per pound..... \$2.00
Parsons, per pound..... \$1.50
Eggs, per dozen..... \$1.00

Vegetables.

Potatoes, per bushel..... \$1.00
Carrots, per peck..... \$1.00
Onions, winter, per bushel..... \$2.00
Celeries, per pound..... \$1.00

Veal.

Flank, per pound..... \$1.00
Ribs, per pound..... \$1.00
Loin, per pound..... \$1.00

WETASKIWIN MARKETS.

Wetaskiwin, Sept. 21.—The following are the prevailing market prices for grain and live stock.

Per cent. **Wetaskiwin.** **Barley** **Wheat** **Oats**

Per cent. **Wetaskiwin.** **Barley</**

